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Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"In view of the fact that the Home Member was saying that a head constable opened fire and that the man was injured, was any order given to that head constable to open fire ?"

The hon. Khan Bahaur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— "No, Sir ; when he found that Mr. Bulkley was in danger, he immediately fired a shot in order to save Mr. Bulkley."

## Books and Publications

*Alleged proscription of the "Bheeshma Prathignya."*

*553 Q.—The Zamindar of Gollapalli : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government propose to proscribe *Bheeshma Prathignya* especially the scene of moral delinquency of Satyavati from staging ?

*A.*—There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government.

The Zamindar of Gollpalli :—"Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of proscribing such dramas ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— "There is no such proposal at present ; if the hon. Member writes to the Government bringing facts and figures to their notice, the Government will consider the question."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"Before the Government makes up its mind to interfere with literature, will the Government consider that Law and Government cannot really regulate these literary productions ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— "As I have said, there is no proposal before the Government." (Voices :—Thanks.)

## Police

*Alleged ill-treatment of the under-trial accused in the Trichinopoly Railway strike case.*

*554 Q.—Dr. B. S. Mallayya : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a letter from Mr. N. S. Ramaswami Ayyangar about the under-trial accused in the Trichinopoly Railway strike case ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that some of the accused in the said case are over 55 years old and suffering from diseases such as hernia, etc., and whether all the accused were made to walk a distance of three miles from the Central Jail to the Court of the Deputy Magistrate, Trichinopoly, on 14th September 1928 ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that they represented to the escort officer that they were too ill to walk ;

(*d*) whether the escort officer reported the matter to his superiors and whether their representation resulted in the men being handcuffed ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that on being made to walk like this, one of them fainted and fell on the road three times ;

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(*f*) whether it is a fact that when these men complained in court about the treatment they received at the hands of the police, the escort officer was examined and the men were asked to submit a written complaint; and

(*g*) whether a written complaint has been made and if so, what action has been taken on it?

*A*—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) *to* (*g*) The Government have no information; they have called for a report.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to treat under-trial prisoners as convicts till they are convicted?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"That is not the policy of the Government."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"Do the Government think that the treatment given to the under-trial prisoners at present is fair?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Yes."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"Is it fair that they should be asked to walk a distance of 4 miles?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"As I have said, the Government have called for a report. The Government have no facts before them at present."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"Have not the Government received a letter from a respectable gentleman like Mr. N. S. Ramaswami Ayyangar and are not the Government satisfied that there is something wrong and that they should rectify matters?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The Government have to hear both sides of the question before they come to a conclusion."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"Are the under-trial prisoners to suffer in the meanwhile? Cannot the Government issue orders that they may be treated as human beings till they are convicted?"

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"In view of the fact that the question was sent to your office on the 25th of the last month and to the hon. the Home Member on the 5th of this month, may I know the reasons why the Government have not yet been able to get information from Trichinopoly which is within 12 hours of Railway Mail journey on these serious allegations?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"We have referred the matter to the District Magistrate; we have not received his report; we have reminded him."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"May I ask if the hon. the Home Member is not aware that even yesterday it was mentioned in the papers that these unfortunate, old, infirm and incapable men were being made to walk four miles a day to and fro from the jail to the Magistrate's office?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I am not aware of it."

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Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—"Pending the report from the District Magistrate, will the hon. Member be pleased to issue orders to take the accused by motor bus or any other conveyance ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"All that I can say at present is that, as soon as the report is received, the matter will be dealt with."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"Are these men to suffer till the Government receive the report and pass orders ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I do not know whether they are suffering or not."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"Cannot the Government believe the statement made by respectable citizens of His Majesty ?"

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—"Even if the Government err, will they be pleased to err on the safe side ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I have already promised that the Government will consider the question as soon as the report is received."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Even in case the allegations are untrue that these gentlemen are being made to walk to and fro, may I ask why the Government should not issue orders that they should be treated as innocent men until they are convicted and given a conveyance from the Trichinopoly Jail to the Court which is a distance of between 3 to 4 miles ? May I know any other reasons why this order should not be issued by this Government except on the ground that it may be superfluous if our allegations are untrue ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"It is a matter for the Court to decide."

Mr. Sami VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Will the Government be pleased to issue orders that these persons may be conveyed in a carriage at least in the interest of the police constables who have got to accompany these persons ?" (Laughter.)

## Madras Record Office

*Curator of the Madras Record office.*

* 555 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) when the appointment of the Curator, Madras Record office, was created ;

(b) what was the necessity for the creation of the appointment and what were the duties attached to it ; and

(c) when the Madras Record office was constituted and whether the Government will place the connected papers on the table ?

A.—(a) April 1911.

(b) An officer was required to take charge of all the records, of all current work in connexion with them, of their preservation, repair, indexing, calendaring and publication.

(c) The Record office was constituted in April 1908. The Government do not propose to place papers on the table.